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ROOK
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ALL-NEW ILLUSTRATED HEROIC ADVENTURE

The ROOK

NUMBER EIGHT

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GALACTICA KITS

CYLON RAIDERS AND COLONIAL VIPERS

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Easy to Assemble**

CYLON RAIDER

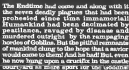
Cylon saboteur model kit from the hit movie Battlestar Galactica! This easy to assemble model kit comes with display base, decals, in 1/100 scale, easy to assemble, color assembly guide, color photos, die play base and working missile launchers. The entire model is painted in the T.V. series that has the nation's eye with the most advanced special effects, as the ship is brought home to you by these dazzling detailed kit! This you can follow the adventures of Adams, Starbuck and all the rest as they head off the Cylon's in space. **PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED** **#20033—\$9.99**



COLONIAL VIPER

Your flying ship from the Colonial Fleet of the Battlestar Galactica. This easy to assemble model kit comes with display base, decals, working launchers & a die play base. The entire model is painted in the T.V. series that has the nation's eye with the most advanced special effects, as the ship is brought home to you by these dazzling detailed kit! This you can follow the adventures of Adams, Starbuck and all the rest as they head off the Cylon's in space. **PARENTAL SUPERVISION REQUIRED** **#20034—\$9.99**

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prologue

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, KATIE MACALL FELL IN LOVE. THEN SHE WAS A COMMON WOMAN WHO SOLD HER FAVORS FOR HER DAILY BREAD. SHE WAS AN INDEPENDENT WOMAN UNTIL THE HANDSOME TIME TRAVELER FROM THE TWENTIETH CENTURY PLACED SHACKLES ON HER HEART AND BRIDLED HER TO HIS WORLD: A WORLD OF COMMONPLACE WONDERS, TECHNOLOGICAL MIRACLES AND UNSPOOLED LOVE.



IN HER EMOTION FIDDLER HEART, HOWEVER, KATIE WAS SURE THAT HER EARLY TALE ROMANCE COULD NEVER LAST. SHE COULD NEVER GIVE HER TIME TRAVELER THE ONE THING HE NEEDED MOST: A FUTURE. BECAUSE OF HER INDISCREET PAST, BECAUSE SHE HAD STILL BIRTHED AN INFANT WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE MORE THAN A CHILD, SHE WAS NOW INCAPABLE OF BEARING CHILDREN!



YET, A CHILD OF THE FUTURE HAD COME INTO HER TIME TRAVELER'S LIFE, CLAIMING TO BE HIS OFFSPRING. AND KATIE ALONE KNEW THAT THE CHILD WAS NO OFFSPRING OF HERB!





IN A TIME THAT IS YET TO BE... IN A PLACE WHERE MAN HAS YET TO TREAD... A BRAVE BUT INJURED FINE MASTER TENDS TO FIGHT FOR HIS WEARY LIFE! THE PLACE IS A TINY POCKET OF JUPITER'S MYSTERIOUS MOON, JO... A PRIMITIVE GARDEN OF EDEN! THE TIME IS A DANGEROUS TIME THE OPENING DECADE OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY AND THE MAN IS A MAN FOR ALL CENTURIES! BILLY DANE, THE TIME-TRAVELING ADVENTURER KNOWN AS... THE ROOK!

AROOOOO!

G-GRANDFATHER GOD HELP US! GRANDFATHER IT... IT'S ANOTHER CREATURE GETTING READY TO ATTACK!

HE CAME TO THIS WORLD IN ANSWER TO A GIRL'S PLEA FOR HELP! AND THOUGH HE HAD NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE, THE GIRL WAS HIS DAUGHTER... BORN BY A WOMAN HE HAD NEVER KNOWN!

THE ROOK

BUT THE GIRL DID NOT WANT HIS HELP! SHE WANTED ONLY HIS DEATH!

THE COMING OF BILLY DANE!

WITH AWE-SOME, VIOLENT SWIFTNESS,
THE VENEROUS TREE-SNAKE LUNGES,
CURLING ITSELF AROUND THE TIME
MASTER'S BODY! THE BLOODIED
BOWIE KNIFE, WHICH HAS
ALREADY SLAIN ONE
SERPENT CREATURE, BITES
HARD AND DEEP.



BUT SEEMS INEFFECTIVE AGAINST THE ANGRY, RAGING
REPTILE! RESTIN'S TIRED MUSCLES STRAIN NEAR THEIR
BREAKING POINT AS HE DESPERATELY STRUGGLES TO
KEEP THE CREATURE'S POISON-TIPPED FANGS AWAY!



REEEEEEEE!



BUT THE BEAST IS
TOO STRONG! THE
MAN TOO DRAINED!
RESTIN KNOWS
HE MUST END THE
BATTLE QUICKLY
BEFORE THE VENOM
ALREADY COURSEING
THROUGH HIS

GRANDFATHER'S BODY STALLS
THE OLD MAN'S
WEAKENING HEART!

BUT AIN' NOIN' RIPPIN' MUSCLE-
CRUSHING PAIN ROCKETS THROUGH
EVERY FIBER OF HIS BERNY BLACK
CLOUDS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS
ANOTHER HIS HOPES! HIS LUNGS
STRAIN FOR ONE MORE BREATH OF
LIFE-GIVING AIR! BUT IT IS FUTILE!
THE CREATURE TIGHTENS ITS HOLD,
AND THE BOY KNOWS THAT HE HAS
LOST!



THE HORNS OF THE TREE SHAKE REVERBERATE THROUGHOUT THE LUSH JUNGLE. COUSAL BAMB HAS HEARD THE SOUNDS OFTEN. IT'S THE PRIMAL VICTORY CRY OF THE GREAT RED HORN.



A CRY VOICED ONLY WHEN THE GREATEST OF ENEMIES HAD BEEN VANQUISHED!



WITH A MIND AND REFLEXES AS QUICK AS THOSE OF HER FAMOUS FATHER, THE GIRL SPRINGS THROUGH THE JUNGLE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SHRIEKING SNAKE!

OF COURSE!

TABOO, HER HORNY CAT, GUIDES SMOOTHLY AT HER SIDE!



FATHER!
NOOOOO!



INSTANTLY, THE CAT SPRINGS UPON THE GIANT SNAKE, FORCING THE REPTILE TO DROP THE SEMI-CONSCIOUS MAN!



THE SNAKE TENSES, BARRING ITS GLISTENING FANGS. SWIFTLY IT DRAWS BACK, MISSING CRIMINOSUSLY.

KILL
TABOO!
KILL!



THIN STRIKES ITS FANGS NEARLY SLICING THE AIR AS THE CAT DARTS AHEAD! BUT THE BEAST WILL NOT BE DECEIVED ITS WILL IN THE SAME DEFT MANNERMENT ITS BODY COILS AROUND THE CAT!

THE CAT SCREAMS IN PAIN
WRACKED ABOUT AS THE
SICKENING SOUND OF
CRUNCHING BONE PUNCHES THE
JUNGLE SILENCE! HER
FATHER SAFELY CUT OF THE
WAY, CORAL BOUNDS FOR
THE SHARK!

TABOO!
WOODY DON'T
HURT TABOO!

THE CAT
FALLS TO THE GROUND,
LIFELESS!
TEARS CLOUD
THE GIRL'S
EYES! AGEE
STARES HER
SOUL! SHE
CLINGS TO
THE
REPTILE'S
NECK.

O-CORAL!

AGAIN AND
AGAIN
PLUNGING
HER KNIFE
INTO ITS
BRAIN. AS
HER
FATHER,
WEAK, ACTS
ON INSTINCT
ALONE,
SLASHES
DEEPLY FOR
THE MEAT!

IN ITS FINAL, DESPERATE BIRTH
THROES, THE SHARK REARS
BACKWARD! TRYING HARDLY TO
DISLODGE ITS TORMENTOR'S THICK,
BLACK BLOOD GASHES FROM A DOZEN
GAPING WOUNDS!

THEN... FINALLY... THE SERPENT FALLS
AMONGST THE BLOODY CARNAGE! IT HAS SO
EASILY BROUGHT! AND THE JUNGLE, ONCE
AGAIN KNOWS PEACE! NOT A SOLITARY
CREATURE, MAN NOR BEAST, STAYS!

Revenge!



THE DARK YEL- OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS SLOWLY LIFTS FROM THE TIME TRAVELER'S SENSES. THE LOW THERMALING OF FLYING- BOMBS FORCES HIM TO OPEN HIS EYES. UNDERSTANDABLE CONFUSION CLOUDS HIS THOUGHTS. THEN HE FEELS THE DULL THROBBING PAIN



CONFUSION BLOSSOMS INTO UNDERSTANDING AS THE ROOM SUD- DENLY REALIZES THAT HE IS ABOARD A TIMESPACE VESSEL- AN ANCIENT, RUSTING SHIP THAT HE DESIGNED NO MORE THAN A WEEK AGO. BUT WHICH IS NOW, YETI OBVIOUSLY, SEVERAL DECADES OLD!



INSTANTLY, EVERYTHING IS CLEAR!



O-O-O-O! YOU, YOU SAVED ME! BUT... BMMF! I THOUGHT YOU WANTED ME DEAD!

MOMMY SAVE YOUR STRENGTH. FATHER! THE TREE-SNAKE CRACKED SEVERAL OF YOUR RIBS! I'M TAKING YOU BACK TO EARTH!

GRANDFATHER JIBO-OFF HE HE IS NOT-F

HE'S BEEN ANALYZED BY THE TREE-SNAKE'S WINGS AND HAS INTERFERE MEMORIZING

WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO MEDICAL ATTENTION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND! YOU BLAMED ME FOR YOUR MOTHER'S DEATH FOR ABANDONING YOU ON THAT JUNGLE WORLD! WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST LEAVE ME THERE?

OH FATHER! I WAS SO MISERABLE! MOTHER ALWAYS SAID YOU WERE A GOOD MAN! AND NOW... AFTER MEETING YOU... I KNOW SHE WAS RIGHT!



YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TO SAVE THAT OLD MAN! YOU DIDN'T RUN FROM THE TREE-SNAKE WHEN YOU COULD HAVE! YOU'RE NOT THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD ABANDON SOMEONE WHEN THEY NEED YOU AND, AFTER RETURNING TO EARLY TWENTIY-FIRST CENTURY EARTH TO GET HELP FOR MOTHER... TO FIND YOU, I REALIZED SOMETHING ELSE!

YOU SENT US TO JAPANESE MOON TO SAVE US FROM THE HORRORS OF AN EARTH GONE MAD!





THE EARTH OF MY TIME
THE FUTURE AGE TO YOU
ISN'T AT ALL LIKE THE
WORLD YOU KNEW

WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED THERE, I BROUGHT MY SHIP DOWN IN COTTON-
WOOD, ARIZONA. NOT FAR FROM YOUR FAMOUS DESERT CASTLE! THE
LITTLE TOWN HAD GLOSSIFIED INTO A CITY, AND THE CITY WAS DYING
SUFFOCATING UNDER THICK CLOUDS OF OILY BLACK POLLUTION



OF THE FEW PEOPLE I SAW
THERE, HALF WERE PALE, SKINNY
AND DRESSED IN ROBES. THE
OTHERS WERE UNARMED, WEARING
ARMOR WITH AN AIR OF SAVAGE
LOOKING WEAPONRY



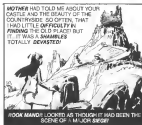
I TRIED COMING
FORWARD TO
THE PEOPLE, TO
FIND OUT
WHERE THEY
WERE, BUT THEY SEEMED TER-
RIFIED OF THE SOLDIERS! NO
ONE WOULD EVEN TALK TO ME!



I THOUGHT THE SOLDIERS MIGHT BE
ABLE TO HELP, BUT THE WAY THEY
KEPT STARRING AT ME, WHISPERING
AMONG THEMSELVES, IT WAS CLEAR
THAT THEY WERE FRIGHTENED, TOO
NOT OF ME, BUT OF AUTHORITY! I
THINK THEY WANTED TO ARREST ME
AND TAKE ME TO THEIR SUPERIORS!
BUT THEY WERE AFRAID OF WHO I WAS!



FOR ALL THEY KNEW, I MIGHT HAVE
BEEN ONE OF THEIR OWN! WOULD THE
OLD SPYDERMAN GO LEND AN AIR OF
MYSTERY AND AUTHORITY TO MY
PRESENCE? WHILE THEY WAITED, I
LISTENED AS MUCH BLUSTER AS I
COULD, AND QUICKLY DISAPPEARED!



MOTHER HAD TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR
CASTLE AND THE BEAUTY OF THE
COUNTRYSIDE, SO OFTEN, THAT
I HAD LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN
FINDING THE OLD PLACE! BUT
IT... IT WAS A SHAMBLES,
TOTALLY DEGRADED!

ROCK MANDS LOOKED AS THOUGH IT HAD BEEN THE
SCENE OF A MAJOR BATTLE



I REMEMBERED MOTHER MENTION-
ING THE OLD NAME SHIPT UNDER THE
CASTLE! I THOUGHT, IF YOU WERE
STILL LIVING IN THE CASTLE
RUINS, YOU MIGHT BE THERE!

THE DOOR TO THE SECRET ROOM HAD OPEN. THE ROBOT GUARD, LONG SINCE DEACTIVATED, THE GALLERY ITSELF WAS FILLED WITH YOUR MOST MARVELOUS INVENTIONS RUSTING FROM DISUSE. BUT YOU, FATHER, WERE MISSING TO BE FOUND!



I WENT BACK TO THE CITY KNOWING THAT I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO FIND YOU AND RETURN TO MY MOTHER! I TOOK ANTIDOTES AND PAIN KILLING DRUGS FROM A PHARMACY THEN RETURNED TO MY SHIP TO FIND IT SURROUNDED BY SOLDIERS!

I GUESS THEY FINALLY DECIDED THAT THEY WANTED TO OBTAIN ME AFTER ALL BUT TARDIS SCARED THEM OFF AND



AND THEN YOU CAME INTO THE PAST WHERE YOU KNEW I COULD BE FOUND!

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO, FATHER! I WANTED YOU SO, BUT MOTHER NEEDED YOU! I COULDN'T GO BACK TO JO WITHOUT YOU!

EVEN IF I HAD TO SETTLE FOR YOU AS A MAN TWENTY YEARS YOUNGER THAN YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN!



WITH ALL OF MY TIME TRAVELING EXPERIENCE I'VE NEVER EVEN ATTEMPTED TO LOOK INTO MY OWN FUTURE! NOW THAT I'M HERE CORAL, AND I'VE MET MY FUTURE WIFE AND DAUGHTER, I'M ANXIOUS TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MY FUTURE SELF!

BUT I'M EVEN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS FUTURE EARTH YOU'VE DESCRIBED TO ME!



LOOK! WE'RE COMING UP ON THE CITY NOW!

THE RETAR ROCKETS OF THE TIME SPACE SHIP BLAZE WITH LIFE AS THE VESSEL BEGINS ITS DESCENT! SUDDENLY THE SKY ADAMS WITH THE THUNDER OF SCREAMING ENGINES! THREE STRAFING FIGHTERS BUZZ POON'S RUSTING SHIP!



AN ANGRY, ELECTRIC VOICE GRACKLES OVER THE TIME SPINNER'S RADIO

ATTENTION! UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT! YOU ARE IN UNITED NATIONS AIR SPACE! IDENTIFY YOURSELF OR PREPARE TO BE DESTROYED!

UNITED NATIONS AIR SPACE IN ANGRY! WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?

THEY DON'T SOUND FRIENDLY! WE'D BETTER ANSWER THEM!





GENTLY, THE UNCONSCIOUS COMFIGHTER IS LIFTED INTO THE TAXI. THE VEHICLE ROLLS THROUGH THE STREETS!

FATHER HE'S NOT BREATHING! THE SNAKE VENOM IS STRANGLING HIM!



HURRY, DRIVER! PLEASE!

I'M GOING AS FAST AS I CAN! HAD IT'S A BIG TOWN. I YOU COULD'A PARKED YOUR SPACE SHIP A LITTLE CLOSER T'THE HOSPITAL!



GARNETT! WHAT ARE YOU STARRING AT? KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD, MAN!



SORRY, PAL! IT AIN'T OFTEN I PICK UP SPACEMEN! ESPECIALLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!



SIDES... YOU LOOK A LITTLE FAMILIAR! DON'T I KNOW YOU FROM SOMEBODY?

I HOPE YOU DO, FRIEND! I HONESTLY HOPE YOU DO!



THE CAR SQUEALS UP TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM! SECONDS LATER, GARNETT IS BEING WHEELED INSIDE!

HURRY, DOCTOR! HE CAN'T BREATHE!



BLOOD PRESSURE DOWN! HIS HEART'S FIBRILLATING! DOCTOR, WE'RE LOSING HIM!

GET HIM TO O.R. STAT! GIVE HIM WHOLE OXYGEN! 100 C.C.'S TETRAADRENALINE! GET DR. STEVENS! I'LL TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM!



HOW GOOD! GOOD! IT... IT CAN'T BE! GARNETT DEAD! BUT... YOU... YOU'RE -



I'M WHAT, DOCTOR? WERE YOU GOING TO SAY THAT I'M DEAD?



NO! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! YOU CAN'T BE THE SAME MAN. I YOU'RE YOUNGER! BUT FOR A MOMENT YOU LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM!



RESTIN DAMN! OH, GOOD! I HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF THAT NAME IN 20 YEARS! NOT SINCE SINCE TAYLOR HAD HIM!



THE NEW BEGINNING AS IT WAS CALLED. RIGHT AFTER THE LAST GREAT WAR, OF '89, THE WORLD WAS A SHAMELESS SMOLDERING PILE OF DEBRIS. THE MIDDLE EAST AND ASIA WERE RADIOACTIVE WASTELANDS BUILT ON THE SMOKY SMOG AND JAPANESE HAD BEEN BURNED TO THEIR KNEES!

THE WAR LEFT NO CLEAR WINNERS. ONLY A WORLD OF ISOLATED, BEATEN NATIONS, WILLING TO CALL A HALF-HEARTED TRUCE BEFORE THERE WASN'T ANYTHING LEFT TO SAVE! THE ELECTIONS OF '96 BROUGHT THE ALLIED POWERS' GREATEST HERO TO THE WHITE HOUSE! GENERAL ALEXANDER MONTAGNO TAYLOR, THE DEER, AS HE WAS CALLED.



HE PROMISED TO BRING PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO THE NEWLY ALLIED UNITED NATIONS STATES! INSTEAD, HIS MILITARISTIC POLICIES BROUGHT FAMINE, DISEASE, AND ROTTING TO THE STREETS OF EVERY MAJOR CITY!



IT WAS BLACKS AGAINST WHITES! OLD AGAINST YOUNG! CITY DWELLER VERSUS FARMER. AND TAYLOR WATCHED IT ALL AS HE FOUGHT AMONGST OURSELVES, FURTHER ALLEVIATING THE PROBLEM OF OVERPOPULATION THAT THE WAR ONLY PARTIALLY CURED!



BUT WHEN WE DIDN'T KILL ONE ANOTHER FAST ENOUGH, THE DEVIL RESORTED TO NASTY TRICKS! AT FIRST HE ONLY HAD HIS MENAGERIES ROUND UP THE SICK, THE LAME, THOSE "PARASITES OF SOCIETY," AS HE CALLED THEM, WHO WERE LEACHING THE LIFELOOD OF HEALTHY CONTRIBUTING CITIZENS!



THEY WERE SENT TO
PRISONS, VERIFIABLE CONCENTRA-
TION CAMPS, WHERE THEY WERE
NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN.

IT IS RUMORED THAT THEY WERE BUTCHERED LIKE SO MANY HELPLESS
CATTLE. YET THE ALLEGATIONS HAVE YET TO BE SUBSTANTIATED AND
PROBABLY NEVER WILL BE!



THROUGH IT ALL, THE PEOPLE DIDN'T COMPLAIN
ONCE! ALL THEY CARED ABOUT IS THAT THERE WERE
FOOD NAMES ON THE WILKINS ROLLS, AND THAT
MUCH MORE FOOD TO FILL THEIR HUNGRY BELLIES!

IT DIDN'T STOP WITH
OUTCAST TAYL. WENT
FOR THE BUSINESS
NEXT. I THOSE WHO
OPENLY CRITICIZED HIS
POLICE WERE ARRESTED
BY HIS AMERICAN
GESTAPO!

NEW WOMEN
CHILDREN IT DIDN'T
SEEM TO MATTER TO
THE BRILL CRITICISM
WAS TRAITOROUS! AND
TAYLORS WERE PRO-
SECUTED THEY TOO
DISAPPEARED FROM THE
FACE OF THE EARTH!



STILL, THE UNITED NATION STATES WERE TOO POWERFUL
FOR TAYLOR HIS ANTI-PROCREATION LAW, DECIDING AN
ABSOLUTE BAN ON ALL NEW BIRTH. WAS DEVOTED TO
ALLEVATE STRAINS ON RAPIDLY DIMINISHING RESOURCES!
INSTEAD, IT GAVE HIM A REASON TO STORM THE GNET,
TOS TO CLEANSER THEM OF MINORITIES WHO COULDN'T
AFFORD BIRTH CONTROL!



THESE SAME MINORITIES WERE SENTENCED TO EXTER-
MINATION UNDER THE NEWLY REESTABLISHED BIRTH-
PENALTY! THEY WERE USED AS FUEL TO POWER THE
MONSTER'S CITY-STATES!



NEW WOMEN AND THEIR ILLEGAL NEWBORN
BABIES WERE THROWN BOULDERLY INTO INCINERATORS TO
GENERATE ELECTRICITY, WHICH WAS MORE PRECIOUS
TO TAYLOR THAN HUMAN LIVES!



YOU WERE ELECTED TO THE SENATE WHILE GENERAL ALEXANDER MARTINSON TAYYL WAS STILL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF ALL ALLIED FORCES. YOU WARNED US THAT HIS DANGEROUS POLICIES WOULD LEAD TO WAR! YOU WARNED US AGAIN! AFTER THAT WAR HAD CLAIMED ALMOST FOUR BILLION LIVES, THAT TAYYL WAS A DANGEROUS, POWER-CHAZED DESPOT! YET, NO ONE WOULD LISTEN! AS MUCH RESPECT AS THE PRESIDENT... AS YOUR FELLOW SENATORS HELD FOR YOU, TAYYL WAS A HERO FOR ENDING THE STAGNATED WAR! AND HEROES HAVE TRADITIONALLY FOUND THEIR WAY TO THE OVAL OFFICE!



EVEN AFTER TAYYL WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NEWLY CREATED UNITED NATION STATES, YOU SPOKE OUT AGAINST HIS POLICE STATE TACTICS! YOU MUST HAVE SEEN THEM WHEN THE CORPSES AROUND YOU REFUSED TO OPISE HIM!



IN FRUSTRATED DESPERATION, YOU TOOK IT UPON YOURSELF TO THREATEN THE DEATH POLICEMEN ONE NIGHT. ALMOST TEN YEARS AGO, YOU, WITH YOUR FAMOUS GUNFIGHTING GRANDFATHER AND ROBOT MANSERVANT, SNUCK INTO ONE OF TAYYL'S DEATH CAMPS! YOU TRIED TO FREE THE SICK, THE HANDICAPPED, THE ELDERLY WHO HAD BEEN IMPRISONED THERE!



BUT YOU WERE DISCOVERED BY TAYYL'S GUARDS!



THEY OPENED UP ON YOU WITH EVERY WEAPON IN THE CAMP! YOUR GROUP WAS BUTCHERED, CUT DOWN LIKE DOGS BEFORE THEY COULD REACH FREEDOM!

YOUR GRANDFATHER, EVER IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE BATTLE, TOOK A DOZEN BULLETS THAT HAD BEEN MEANT FOR YOU AND THE FLEEING REFUGEES!



MORE THAN A HUNDRED PEOPLE DIED THAT NIGHT AS THEY RAGED AMONG A VERITABLE HAIL OF BULLETS TO YOUR BATING TRACKS! IT'S SAID THAT YOU FIGHT LIKE A DEMON, YOUR OWN WEAPONS BARRED, CHARGING INTO TAYL'S ARMY, AS YOU DRAGGED YOUR DYING GRANDFATHER TOWARDS SAFETY!



ONLY A HANDFUL OF TAYL'S PRISONERS ESCAPED WITH YOU, MOST AS BASTY WOUNDED AS YOUR GRANDFATHER BISHOP!



EVEN MORE WERE SLAIN AS THEY CROUCHED IN THE TRUCKS, HOPING, PRAYING FOR THEIR LIVES TO BE SPARED, AS TAYL'S ASSASSINS CONTINUED TO BOMBLE THEM, UNTIL, FINALLY, THE VEHICLES CRASHED INTO THE NIGHT!



THOSE WHO'D BEEN CUT DOWN AND HADN'T MADE IT TO SAFETY, WERE EXECUTED! YOU BLAMED YOURSELF FOR THE DEATHS, FOR THE FACT THAT YOUR ABORTED BROTHER HAD TURNED INTO!



BUT YOU WERE NOT TO BLAME, SON! YOU ACTED WHILE WE SLEEP STOOD BY AND DID NOTHING!

THEN, TAYL'S WHY I SENT YOU AND YOUR MOTHER TO DO, SO YOU'D BE SAFE FROM TAYL, AND HIS ANTI-DEMOCRATIC POLITICS!

OH, FATHER, I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! MOTHER WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG! YOU DIDN'T ABANDON US! YOU—



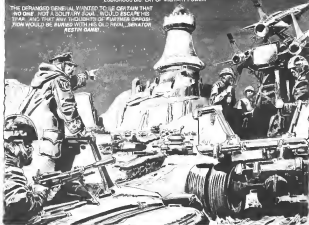
YOUR FATHER DID THE ONLY THING HE COULD DO, CHILD! HE REALIZED THAT ONE MAN FIGHTING A CORRUPT GOVERNMENT WAS DESTINED TO LOSE AND ONCE HE DID, YOU WOULD BE AT TAYL'S MERCY!

WHEN TAYL LEARNED THAT SENATOR BISHOP WAS DENIED THE AID ON HIS DEATH CAMP, HE RE-ASSEMBLED HE CALLED HIS GREATEST GENERALS TOGETHER, AND DECLARED TOTAL WAR ON THE "FIGHTING 1059 LEAGUE WHO HAD SEIZED THE POLICES OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT!"



THE ASSAULT ON DANE MANOR WAS TOTAL AND ABSOLUTE! THE CRAZED TAVYL, PERSONALLY LED THE GREATEST CONTINGENT OF NEW AND RECRUITS OVER ASSEMBLED INTO THE DESERT! MULETRACKS, TANKS, ARMORED ROCKET AND PERSONNEL CARRIERS STORMED THE DANE LANDS SURROUNDING THE FAMOUS CASTLE IN A MAD, MADONE, LUDICROUS DISPLAY OF MILITARY POWER!

THE DEMANDED GENERAL WANTED TO BE CERTAIN THAT NO ONE, NOT A SOLITARY SOUL, WOULD ESCAPE HIS TRAP, AND THAT ANY THOUGHTS OF FURTHER RESISTANCE WOULD BE SWUNG WITH HIS OLD RIVAL, SENATOR RESTIN GANE!



INSIDE DANE MANOR, THE SENATOR AND THOSE FEW OUTCASTS HE'D MANAGED TO FREE FROM TAVYL'S PRISON, REALIZED THAT THEY HADN'T A PRAYER AGAINST THE DEVIL'S HORDES! YET, THEY WERE DETERMINED TO THE LAST MAN, TO BE FIGHTING FOR THE EL PARADISO!

THIS, THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS, BOY RIGHT WHERE IT BEGAN!

IT WAS A GLORIOUS MOMENT, FOR RESTIN GANE, FOR HIS GRANDFATHER, FOR EVERY FREEDOM-LOVING MAN READY TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR WHAT HE BELIEVED IN! AND THOUGH HE LAY STIFF, WOUNDED BY WOUNDS SUSTAINED IN THAT CHILLER ESCAPE, THE OCCASION WAS NOT LOST ON THE VALIANT BISHOP GANE!

WE BOTH BEEN HERE BEFORE SON, THE FIRST TIME WE LAID EYES ON ONE ANOTHER!

ONLY BACK THEN, IT WAS CALLED THE ALAMO!

I ONLY WISH I COULD GET OUT THERE AN FIGHT AT YER SIDE BOY! I RECOLLECT OL' AM BOWIE BEN IN A SIMILAR FLIGHT! HE COULDN'T GO TO THE WAR, HAD T'WAIT FOR THE WAR COME T'EM!

I DON'T MIND THOUGH IT AIN'T OFTEN A MAN GETS A CHANCE T'CHECK OUT THE WAY HIS HERO DID!

I'M PROUD THAVE KNOWN HIM, AND PROUDER THAVE KNOWN FOR! WE DONE GAVE EM HELL, BOY AN WE AIN'T DONE YET!



THERE WERE TWENTY OF THEM IN ALL! SOCIETY'S OUTCASTS! CASTOFFS! CRIPPLES AND REJECTED! THEY WATCHED, AS FRIGHTENED AS ANY MAN WOULD BE, AS TAYL, 8 FANKS AND CANNONS' ROCKET LAUNCHERS AND ARMES MOVED INTO PLACE AROUND THEM! THE ROOM GAVE THEM A CHANCE TO LEAVE! HE TOLD THEM THAT ANY MAN WHO WANTED TO LEAVE COULD CLIMB INTO HIS TANK CASTLE... WHICH WAS PROGRAMMED TO REAPPEAR IN A SAFER TIME... A SAFER PLACE!

THE FIRST BARRAGE CALIBERATED THE TOP OF MOA CASTLE! STONE AND DEBRIS RAINED DOWN ON THE PATRIOTS AS THEY RETURNED THE FIRE WITH EVERYTHING THEY HAD!

AUTOMATIC WEAPONRY OWNED AT THE CASTLE! ROCKETS! MORTARS! CANNONS EXPLODED IN ENDLESS, APOCALYPTICAL FURY! HUGE CHUNKS OF THE CASTLE WERE SPLAYED WITH EACH CATASTROPHIC IMPACT! ROCKING THE STAGNATE MONUMENT... THE MONUMENT TO AMERICA'S FINAL MOVES TO ITS VERY CORE!

BAM!



THE WORLD EXPLODED, CRUMBLED, DISINTEGRATED AROUND THEM! MAN AFTER MAN! HERO AFTER HERO! WAS MET AGAIN AND AGAIN... BUT CONTINUED TO FIGHT... TO RISE... TO GIVE EVERY OUNCE OF HIS STRENGTH UNTIL THAT INEVITABLE FINAL BREATH WAS CRUSHED FROM HIS BATTERED BODY!



TAYL TOOK WITH THEM... HIDDEN SAFELY BEYOND THE RANGE OF THEIR WEAPONS! HE ORDERED HIS MEN TO ADVANCE TO CLOSE IN ON THE CASTLE TO DESTROY EVERYONE!



HIS FAITHFUL, ROBOT MAIDSERVANT STOOD AT HIS SIDE UNTIL THE VERY END! UNTIL AN EXPLOSIVE ROCKET SCORED A DIRECT HIT, RIPPING THE HEROIC TRI MAN INTO UNREPAIRABLE, FRAGMENTED PIECES OF UNIDENTIFIABLE MOA PAN METAL!

AND RESTING IN THE SCIENTIST, ADVENTURER, UNITED STATES SENATOR... STOKED IN THE POWER OF HIS OWN WEAPONS BLAZING, REFUSED TO SURRENDER! AGAIN... AGAIN BY EXPLOSIVE BOMBS THAT WOULD HAVE KILLED A LESSER MAN, HE REFUSED TO DIE... TO GIVE HIS LIFE CHEAPLY!

WHUMP!

AND STILL TAVYL'S BUTCHERS CAME UNDER COVER OF THEIR UNENDING FIRE! THEY STORMED THE CASTLE IN AN AWESOME MILITARISTIC MANNER

EXHAUSTED, HIS AMMUNITION SPENT, RIDDLED BY WOUNDS IN HIS ARMS, HIS LEGS, CHEST AND HEAD THE VALIANT SENATOR, THE LAST MAN ON THE BATTLEMENTS, STOOD READY FOR THEM

THEY SAY HE FOUGHT WITH A SAMURAI FOW MEN, HAD EVEN SEEN TAVYL'S STEELMANTROOPERS SMOTHERING HIM, COMING AT HIM IN AN ENDLESS WAVE OF DESTRUCTION

COVERED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD, HE FOUGHT THEM OFF, UNTIL ONE YOUNG SNAWWHO WHO HAD FOUGHT AT HIS SIDE, WHO HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH IN TAVYL'S EXTORTIONATION CAMP, WAS ABLE TO STOP AT THE ROCK'S FAULTY TIME MACHINE

AND PILOT HIMSELF AND THAT MACHINE TO SAFETY!

THE BASTARDS RIPPED THROUGH THE CASTLE THEN, SEARCHING FOR SURVIVORS... DILATERATING THE WORK OF A LIFETIME!

THEY FOUND ONE MAN, THE FINAL MAN, THE FINAL WARRIOR, SNAW DAVE, THE DYING GUNFIGHTER. HE MADE THEM MISH THAT THEY'D NEVER BEEN BORN!

HE DIED, AS HE WANTED TO DIE, WITH A GUN IN HIS MOUTH AND HIS BLOOD SOAKING THE MAN AT HIS SIDE. HE FOUGHT WHILE STILL A BOY!

JIM POWERS WOULD'VE BEEN PROUD!

TEN YEARS... IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE THE WORLD'S LAST HEROES DIED. SENATOR THE WORLD'S BEEN DYING EVER SINCE!

I'M NO HERO, DOCTOR! I'M A CONSERVATIVE! I'VE NEVER LOOKED INTO MY OWN FUTURE! I THINK I'VE ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID TO FIND OUT HOW IT ENDS! AND NOW NOW THAT I KNOW I'M MORE FRIGHTENED THAN EVER!

I'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE ANXIATION AND THE FEAR OF THAT IRREVERSIBLE END EVERY WAKING HOUR OF MY LIFE!

NO MR DANE, YOU REMAIN A MURDER, A LIEBARD, AND AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL! FOR EVEN IN AMONGST YOUR DESTINY, YOU SAW IT THROUGH! AGAINST US, THE CONARDS WHO LET IT HAPPEN, HAVE HAD TO LIVE WITH OUR DUILT SINCE THAT DAY!



AND THAT GIRL HAS BEEN A MORE HEINOUS HATE THAN ALL OF THE INDEBITMENTS THIRST UPON US BY TAVYL! NOW WE HAVE A CHANCE TO REDEEM OURSELVES! A SECOND CHANCE, WITH POW TO LEAD US AGAINST THE MAD DICTATOR TO PUT AN END TO HIS CRIMES FOREVER!



DOCTOR IT'S FIRM HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE SECOND CHANCE! A CHANCE NO MAN HAS HAD BEFORE! TO AVENGE HIS OWN DEATH! MAYBE THIS TIME I CAN DO SOMETHING TO SAVE HUMANITY FROM THIS... THIS ANTI-CHURCH!



OH FATHER WHY YOU'LL BE

KILLER CORAL, HONEY IT IS A RARE MAN WHO CAN DIE TWICE

THEN WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR EXCELLENT SKILL NOW THERE'S SOMETHING I KNOW YOU'LL WANT TO MEET!



NURSE PLEASE SEND OUR YOUNG NEUROLOGIST IN HERE!

RESTON DANE, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE SIEGE AT ROOK MANOR, AND THE CARETAKER OF YOUR LEGENDARY TIME MACHINE!



WILLIAM DANE!

S-SERA POW! A-ROGAT! IT IS YOUR OH DADDY IT IS REALLY P POW!

I'M PROUD TO MEET YOU SON! VERY PROUD!

WILLIAM DANE WHY FORGIVE A STUPID QUESTION, BUT ARE WE RELATED?



OH SIR, HOW I WISH WE MERRY I WAS AN OAPHAM, A CHILD OF THE STORMS WHEN TAVYL'S MEN SENT ME TO ONE OF HIS DEATH CAMPS!



YOU TOOK ME FROM THE CAMP THE NIGHT I WAS SENTENCED TO DIE!

YOU SAVED MY LIFE AGAIN AT THE SIEGE OF ROOK MANOR! I WANTED TO DIE WITH YOU FIGHTING AT YOUR SIDE! BUT YOU SHOWED ME INTO YOUR TIME CASTLE AND TOLD ME TO STAND IT ALWAYS, TO MAKE SURE IT NEVER FELL INTO TAVYL'S HANDS!



I TOOK THE NAME DANE, HOPING I COULD ONE DAY CARRY ON IN YOUR PLACE, FIGHTING AGAINST TAVYL AND HIS KIND!



IF NOT FOR DR STEADMAN HERE WHO SHELTERED ME AFTER THE MASSACRE TAVYL'S DOGS WOULD BE BUTCHERED ME YEARS AGO!

WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GIVE IT A SECOND SHOT? BILLY? A SECOND CHANCE AT TAVYL? YOU MIGHT SAY WE'RE BOTH DIFFERENT MEN NOW!

SIR TO BE PROUD TO HELP YOU!





prologue

THE PLANET VENUS, OUR
CLOSEST PLANETARY
NEIGHBOR, IS ENCLOSED BY AN
IMPERMEABLE LAYER OF CLOUDS
THOUGH OFTEN THOUGHT TO BE
A PAIR OF SISTERS, THIS IS AN
UNUSUALLY HEATED PLACE WITH A
POISONOUS ATMOSPHERE AND A
SURFACE TEMPERATURE NOT
UNLIKE THAT OF MOLTEN LEAD.

WITNESS NOW A
COSMIC ACCIDENT! A
SHOCK ANTEWER
REVEALS THE AT-
MOSPHERE OF VENUS
BEFORE CONTINUING
ITS COURSE
THROUGH THE SOLAR
SYSTEM DIRECTLY
AHEAD OF IT. LAY
EARTH, A MERE POINT
OF LIGHT TWENTY-
FIVE MILLION MILES
AWAY.

WHOW!

NOVEMBER 21, 1929, BEL-AIR,
CALIFORNIA: SIX MONTHS
AFTER ITS BRIEF RENDEZ-
VOUS WITH VENUS, THE
METEOR CRASHES TO AN
EXPLOSIVE HALT, DRAGGING
THROUGH THE ROOF OF A
FABULOUS MANSION.



MY LORD
WE'RE DYING!
WE CAN'T BREATHE!

WHO'S
THAT? I
CAN'T
SEE YOU!



MY LORD!
THESE ROCKS
ARE GRAYLING
ALL OVER IT! WHO
ARE YOU? WHAT DO
YOU WANT
FROM ME?

DON'T BE
AFRAID!
COME CLOSER!
TOUCH THE
ROCK!
(CRIES)
WE'RE DYING!



NOW! NOBODY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING
TO ME? STOP IT! STOP IT!
STAY OUT OF MY BEAM!

JANUARY 30, 1991
MAJOR CITY BLVD.
HOME OF JOE GUY,
AMERICA'S
FOREMOST HERO

PRESENTLY, A
SINGULARLY DETER-
MINED MAN AM
PROSECUTE THE GIANT
JOE COMPLEX HEAD-
QUARTERS FOR JOE
GUY AND HIS DARING
BAND OF ADVENTU-
RERS. HE HALLS
BARELY CONTAINING
THE GROWING
BUDGETARY IN HIS
HAND HE CARRIES AN
URGENT PERSONAL
MESSAGE FROM JOE
GUY.

CAN THIS MAN BE
DELIVERING INFORMA-
TION OF VITAL IM-
PORTANCE? CAN HE
THREATEN THE
MESSAGE LEAD US
HEADLONG INTO AN
ADVENTURE WHICH
ONLY JOE GUY CAN
HANDLE?



YES, PROBABLY SO. AFTER ALL, THIS IS
THE COMIC SERIES!



JOE GUY
FUGITIVE

JOE GUY

AMERICA'S FOREMOST HERO!



INSIDE THE COMPLEX WOLFRAM ALLEN-ROOSE JOE'S PRESIDENT
PHYSICIST SUBJECTS A RAPIDLY TYPING JOE OFF TO A BATTERY OF
GUELING PHYSICAL TESTS ALSO PRESENT ARE BANTAM APPROPRIATE
JOE'S PERSONAL MANAGER AND HOFFA BALL JOE'S PRIVATE
SECRETARY



FEAR
WHAT ABOUT
THE MILITARY
WHAT ABOUT
JERRY
JENNITT

THE LATEST
HUMAN VICTIM
WILL PROBABLY
BE THE FIRST
ONE TO
BE KILLED BY
A BOMB.



AS USUAL,
YOU'RE MISSING
THE POINT. BANTAM
THINK TESTS ARE TO
DETERMINE THE LIMITS
OF JOE'S SPECIAL
POWERS.

WE WANT TO UNDOOR THE BARRIERS IN WHICH JOE IS TRAPPED AND HELP HIM DEVELOP HIS ABILITIES. WE'VE ALREADY MADE SEVERAL BREAKTHROUGHS THIS MORNING.



**INSPIRED
FOUNDED
BY LOVE AND TRUTH
BORN THROUGH
HIGH-TECH ART**

WILL SOME
JOURNALIST
FIELD THAT
ONE UP TWO
MINUTES LONGER
THAN THE
PICCADILLY

1. The first step is to identify the problem.



WALLY JOSEPH
PLEASE THERE
ARE SEVERAL MORE
PAGES LEFT TO GO

WE STILL
HAVE YOUR SPECIAL
VISION-HEARING SPEED
AND SELF-INVULNERABILITY
TO MAKE GOOD

I'VE MIXED UP THIS
 AWKWARD MESSAGE FOR
 YOU TO REMEMBER

**MAYBE AND THEN I'M
NICKEL-PLATE 'EM BRASSER! I THINK
I'LL TAKE MY UNIQUE ABILITIES
AND STICK THEM IN THE
SILVER FOR GOOD!**



INTERVIEW
TODAY

QUANTAS I
THOUGHT I SAID
NO REPORTERS
DURING THESE

IT IS A SHOCKING TOLL AND WE KNOW I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW LOW THE COSTS ARE HERE.



SOMEHOW, LATER, BEL-AIR, CALIFORNIA

MY GODDNESS! WHAT A
GLORIOUS MANSION! MY POTH
I'VE SEEN PALACES IN SWITZER
LAND BETTER THAN THIS!

IT WAS EVEN BIGGER
BEFORE BOB! BUT! BUT! AN
EXPLOSION LAST YEAR NEARLY
LEVELLED THIS ENTIRE COAST!
WHAT YOU SEE HERE HAS BEEN
COMPLETELY REBUILT AT THE
COST OF TWENTY-FOUR
MILLION DOLLARS!

SEEMS I HEARD
ABOUT THAT! A
GAS MAIN EXPLODED
BLOWING UP MOST OF
THIS HOUSE! YOUR
BOSS, CARPICO'S
BOL-PELO DREAM BY
THE BLESSING OF
MIRACLES!

THAT'S THE PUBLIC
VERSION OF THE STORY!
ACTUALLY, THE HOUSE WAS
STRUCK BY METEOR!

CARPICO HAD ALONE IN
THE HOUSE WHEN IT HIT! THE
SERVANTS HAD BEEN DISMISSED
FOR THE NIGHT! AND I WAS AWAY
COORDINATING AN AUCTION OF
HIS PARTNERS!

WHEN I RETURNED I
WAS MET BY A DRAMATICALLY
DIFFERENT MAN! THE ACCIDENT
SEEMED TO HAVE CHANGED
CARPICO'S PERSONALITY
ENTIRELY!

HE WOULD I EVEN
ALLOW THE INSURANCE
INVESTIGATORS ONTO THE
PROPERTY TO INSPECT THE
DAMAGE! ALL THEY WANTED
TO SEE WAS THE WITNESSES
AND THEY WOULD HAVE
PAID OFF IN FULL!

BUT HE REFUSED
SPENDING MILLIONS OF
DOLLARS OF HIS OWN MONEY
TO REBUILD THE HOUSE! (RATHER
THAN LET ANYONE NEAR
THE MANSION AREA)

BOY, THAT
IS CRAZY!

CRAZYER
THAN YOU
CAN IMAGINE!
PREPARE
YOURSELVES!

GOOD
AFTERNOON
CHALLENGER!
HOW IS HE
TODAY?

RATHER MORE
ACTIVE THAN USUAL!
GUY! REMOVED ALL OF
THE TELEVISIONS IN THE
HOUSE! AS YOU ASKED
BUT I'M AFRAID I MISSED
THE ONE IN HIS CAR! HE
WAS WATCHING AN ERIC
FLYNN MOVIE WHEN
I FOUND HIM!

MY GOD! ERIC
FLYNN, FLYNN MOVIE
CHALLENGER!

THAK!

VENTURE
NO FURTHER
YE DEVILISH
SCOUNDRELS!

AND YE YOU
ARE TRESPASSING
IN BARKWOOD
FOREST!





FOLLOWING DINNERS, CAPRICCIO AGAIN DROPS OUT OF SIGHT. ONLY TO RETURN A SHORT TIME LATER IN YET ANOTHER DISGUISE!



AND HERE AS YOU CAN SEE IS A GALLERY OF MY PAINTINGS! HAPPY CLOWNS! SAD CLOWNS! REAL AND PICTORIAL! A CLOAKED JOY FOR EVERY TASTE!

THEY'RE TRULY FABULOUS! OH, DON CORLEONE! DON'T YOU THINK SO JOE?

HMM! OH, YEAH! (GASPS!)

UNNOTICED BY THE OTHERS, JOE TRIES HIS SPYGLASS VISION ON A NEARBY DOOR. THIS TIME WITH MORE SUCCESS!



SOMETHING VERY CURIOUS BEHIND THAT DOOR! I'LL COME BACK WHEN THE OTHERS ARE ASLEEP!

AND HERE'S THE VERY BEST ONE OF ALL!

YOU LIKE IT? IT IS YOURS!



OH, JOE! DID YOU HEAR? DON CORLEONE IS GIVING ME THIS LOVELY PAINTING!

THAT'S MIGHTY GENEROUS OF YOU DON CORLEONE!

PERHAPS NOT SO GENEROUS! THE PAINTING IS BADLY SCORCHED! MANY OF MY WORKS WERE DAMAGED IN THE... THE EXPLOSION!



THE EXPLOSION! HE'LL ME! ALBERT! THE THINGS IN THE ROOM! THEY... THEY WON'T LET ME GO!

WHAT IS IT A SECRET?

HE STILL HAS OCCASIONAL PERIODS OF CLARITY! HE CAN BE TALKED TO NOW!



MR. GUY JOE, LISTEN TO ME! I TOO LATE TO SAVE AND BUT... BUT YOU MUST STOP THOR AND SCHEME! THE WHOLE WORLD DEPENDS ON IT!

SWEAR! YOU WON'T GO BEFORE THEY'RE STOPPED! SWEAR IT!

I SWEAR, CAPRICCIO! BUT... AND THE DEVIL AM I PROPOSED TO STOP!



I NEED YOUR PARDOON THAT WAS AN INDESSIMABLE MANNER FOR A HOST TO ASK FORGIVE ME! I FEAR I DARED TOO MUCH AT DINNER!

I SEE IT IS GETTING LATE! CHARLES! PLEASE SHOW OUR GUESTS TO THEIR ROOMS! THEY'LL BE LEAVING IN THE MORNING!

ALRIGHT IF YOU'LL REMAIN A MOMENT! I WOULD LIKE A WORD WITH YOU!

AS THE OTHERS ARE LED OUT OF ROOM, CAPPECCIO'S BARBERY SAYS SEVERAL THINGS. IT IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE MADNESS SOCIETY CAPPECCIO THAT ALBERT GOES TO FEAR FOR HIS LIFE!

YOU HAVE BETRAYED ME MY SON. ALWAYS IN THE PAST WE HAVE HANDED OUR FAMILY PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE FAMILIES. YET NOW YOU BRING THESE QUACKERS INTO MY HOME TO EXAMINE OUR DIRTY WASH!

NO CAPPECCIO! YOU SENT ME TO RETRIEVE JOE GUY YOURSELF! DON'T SEND HIM AWAY! HE MAY BE YOUR ONLY HOPE!

THAT YOU SHOULD BETRAY ME HANDED MY SAYS THAT YOU TRAIT ME AS A Liar IS UNFORGIVABLE!

THIS FAME ME MORE THAN YOU CAN KNOW MY SON. BUT THIS IS BUSINESS, AND JACQUES COMES FIRST! GOODBYE ALBERT!

SLAT!

LIAR!!!

AT THAT SAME MOMENT, SPEAKER!

THIS IS FROM ROOM MAMAM! THE SPEAKERS ROOM IS DIRECTLY ACROSS THE MALL PLUS AND! IF YOU NEED ANYTHING HAVE A PLEASANT EVENING!

THANK YOU CHARLES!

SEE YOU IN THE MORNING PUL!

JACQUES MY JOE! LET ME KNOW IF ANYTHING HAPPENS AGAIN!

OH, SURE THING! HOPPA "TARR" TTY! AND GET SOME BUBB! ALL RIGHT! Q'WON!

NOW THAT HOPPA'S SURELY TUCKED IN I CAN ENJOY OUT A FEW THINGS ON MY OWN!

HERE IT IS! DON'T SEE ANYONE THERE SO!





LOOK AT THIS
FANTASTIC
LABORATORY
COMPLETE WITH
THE LATEST IN
COMPUTERS AND
SCIENTIFIC
GADGETRY!

WHY
WOULD AN
ARTIST NEED
THIS GEAR?

THE PUZZLE
JUST KEEPS ON
GROWING!



MAPS OF MENUS
AND EARTH PLANET
DETAILED CHARTS
ON ATMOSPHERIC
CONDITIONS ON
EARTH WERE DO
WHAT IN BLAZES
IS GOING ON
HERE?

MR. GUY!
OVER HERE!
CARPICO!

WHA?



GOOD LORD SOME
KIND OF CRAZY WIKED
FREAKY LOT TOWARD ME
OF THEM

WE ARE
PLAYING
MR. GUY WE
COME FROM
THE CLOUDS
OF HEAVEN

SOMEWHAT MONTHS AGO A
METEORITE HITTED THROUGH THE
ATMOSPHERE OF OUR PLANET
TRAPPING THOUSANDS OF US ALONG
WITH IT. BECAUSE IT EVENTUALLY
CRASHED HERE ON EARTH!



NEAR THE EXTREME
COLD OF SPACE FREEZE
US. KEEPING US IN
PRESERVATION UNTIL
OUR ABRUPT ARRIVAL
ON EARTH.

THE METEOR
THAT PLUNGED
INTO CARPICO'S
WOULDN'T YOU SAID
AROUND IT?

WE WERE
DREAM WHEN
CARPICO FOUND
US. YOUR OWN
ATMOSPHERE IS
READY TO US!



IN DESPERATION
WE PROBED CARPICO'S
MIND TELEPATHICALLY AND
DISCOVERED THAT THE GOD
FIRE EXTINGUISHERS IN THE
HOUSE CHAINED APPROXIMATED
THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION
OF OUR OWN PLANET'S
ATMOSPHERE!

ONLY FREQUENT
DOZING OF THE
METEORITE WITH THESE
EXTINGUISHERS SUSTAINED US
UNTIL CARPICO THROUGH
OUR INSTRUCTIONS COULD
BUILD THIS ATMOSPHERIC
CHAMBER!

WHICH IS WHY
CARPICO WOULDN'T
LET ANYONE SEE THE
APPROXIMATE BUT ARE
NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR
CARPICO'S MADNESS?
ARE YOU CONTROLLING
HIM SOMEHOW?

NOT ME MR. GUY!
IT IS THE OTHER FLUTES
THE ARABIAN WHO ARE
CONTROLLING CARPICO! THEY
KEEP US LOCKED IN HERE! SO WE
CANNOT INTERFERE WITH THEIR
PLOT TO DESTROY ALL LIFE
ON EARTH!

THEY HAVE
THE POWER TO DO
IT TOO MR. GUY!
YOU MUST STOP
THEM

MEANWHILE IN ANOTHER PART OF THE HOUSE!



ONLY A FEW THINGS LEFT TO GO AND THEN OUR EARTH WILL BE CARRIED OFF THESE BODENBERG REMAINS FOR GOOD!

WHILE AWAY!



JOEY I WAS LOOKING THROUGH THIS ART BOOK IN MY ROOM! DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH A CAPRICCIO PAINTING IS WORTH! EVEN A DAMAGED ONE!

JOEY NOW WHERE DID HE WASH- TOT TO GETTER AWAY FOR HIM!

AND BACK AT THE LABORATORY



DESTROY ALL LIFE ON EARTH! HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE!

WITH THE DESTROPHOSPHER! THE DESTROPHOSPHER ARE USING CAPRICCIO TO BUILD IT!

WHEN EXPLODES THE PHANTOM-PHRE WILL CAUSE A TREMENDOUS OVERLOAD REACTION IN THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE CHANGING IT IN A MATTER OF DAYS INTO THE ATMOSPHERE OF MARS WHICH IS DEADLY TO HUMANS!

WE WANT TO LIVE MR. GUY! BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF EVERY LIVING THING FOUND ON EARTH! WE ARE EVEN WILLING TO REMAIN IN THIS CHAMBER UNTIL MEANS CAN BE FOUND TO RETURN US TO VENUS!

BUT THE OTHERS THEY'VE BECOME SPOILED HERE ON EARTH! TELEVISION HAS CORRUPTED THEM! WE HAVE NOTHING LIKE IT IN THE CLOUDS OF VENUS!



IS THIS THE BEST MORNEND?

SEEK IT'S NOT FUNCTIONAL YET BUT SOON WILL BE DESTROY IT MR. GUY! HURRY BEFORE CAPRICCIO RETURNS!



GOOD! CAPRICCIO HAS ALREADY RETURNED!

PLEASE BE CAREFUL! BUT THAT FIRST GUY! HURRY! PUT SO MUCH WORK INTO IT!



GOOD! CAPRICCIO HAS ALREADY RETURNED!





AND SUDDENLY AS JOE
KARMS AWAY THE
WOODEN HEADMASK, TEN
THOUSAND SCREAMING
PLEYERS BURST LOOSE IN
ALL DIRECTIONS, SPILL-
ING OUT OF CAPRICCIO'S
CLOTHING IN A MAD,
FRENZIED FRIGHT!















MY FIRST SUSPICION WAS THAT YOU'D SUFFERED A CEREBRAL ANEURYSM! A STROKE! THE DIFFICULTY YOU HAD IN SPEAKING PLUS THE PARALYSIS IN YOUR ARM SEEMED TO SUPPORT THAT DIAGNOSIS!



YOUR ARM IS IT STILL NUMB?

POSSIBLY THIS HAPPENED BEFORE IN AMM FRONT AFTER I BOUGHT A BATTLE FRAGMENT IN THE TRENCH!



I NOTICED THE SCAR DURING MY EXAMINATION WHICH I'M GLAD TO TELL YOU REVEALED THE PHYSICAL INJURY OTHER THAN BRUISED KNUCKLES. TELL ME IS YOUR ARM RELATED TO THAT WAR WOUND?



I WAS ON A BP-COR MISSION NEAR THE LACONIA SEASIDE WHEN WE WERE HIT FROM THE REAR BY CHARLIE'S WAR WIDE BACKY OUTNUMBERED!



YOUR GUYS PUT UP A FIERCE FIGHT WE KILLED A GREAT BUNCH OF THEM BEFORE THE REST WERE DRIVEN BACK. THEY THREW EVERYTHING THEY HAD AT US A MORTAR BOMB LANDED CLOSE BY AND I GOT HIT BY A PIECE OF FLYING SHRAPNEL!



NEXT THING I KNEW I WOKE UP IN A MEDICAL UNIT I WAS TOLD THAT THE SURGEONS HAD REMOVED THE FRAGMENT! BUT FOR NO APPARENT REASON I COULDN'T USE MY RIGHT ARM IT WAS JUST LIKE IT IS NOW!



AFTER MY WOUND HEAL'D I UNDERWENT PSYCHOTRAFFY I CAN'T REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT IT EXCEPT THAT THE PARALYSIS SO EVENTUALLY DISAPPEARED! I PRACTICALLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT UNTIL YESTERDAY!



THE PARALYSIS APPEARS TO BE PSYCHOGENIC AND THAT REQUIRES THE SERVICES OF A PSYCHOTRIST! ALSO AS A VETERAN YOU SHOULD BE IN A VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITAL! NO SENSE IN RUNNING UP A BIG BILL HERE!

SO SUPPOSING I GOM YOU OUT AND HAVE YOU TRANSFERRED TO THE LOCAL P.A. UNIT?

YOU DO FEEL WELL ENOUGH TO MOVE DON'T YOU?



OH SURE BUT I'D BETTER CALL MY GIRL AND LET HER KNOW I'M LEAVING! AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT I DON'T WANT TO GIVE HER FURTHER CAUSE TO HATE!



GAMP MR. KRONOS I'VE ARRANGED FOR YOU TO BE TRANSFERRED TO 'THE M & HOSPITAL'!

THANKS DOCTOR LARA!

I'LL WAIT OUTSIDE WHILE YOU CHANGE VIC!



OH LARA I WAS SO RELIEVED TO HEAR HIS VOICE ON THE PHONE! HE SEEMS BACK TO HIS OLD SELF AGAIN! THANK YOU!

DON'T THANK ME! HE REGAINED HIS SENSE WITHOUT ANY OUTSIDE HELP! WHATEVER THE REASON THERE SEEMS TO BE NO BRAIN DAMAGE!







I WANT YOU TO LOOK UP AS FAR AS YOU CAN WITHOUT RAISING YOUR HEAD. THAT'S IT NOW. SLOWLY CLOSE YOUR EYES. BUT DON'T LOWER YOUR EYES!

DEEPER, DEEPER! MORE! BLINKING! TO SEE YOU ARE A FEET THE ASP SCALE IS HARD TO FIND! ZERO BLINKING! MORE! ONE! THROUGH FOUR ARE PROGRESSIVELY MORE AMENABLE TO HYPNOTISM AND FIVE... WELL! YOU'VE GOT IT! WOULD YOU BE A HIGH FIVE?



I'LL EXPLAIN WHAT I PROPOSE TO DO. WITH YOUR COOPERATION, OF COURSE! TODAY I WILL PUT YOU INTO A LIGHT TRANCE. QUITE A PLEASANT EXPERIENCE, LIKE TAKING A RESTFUL ASP. REALIZING ROCKS-ROCKS!

IN SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS I WILL ADDRESS YOU TO THE TIME AND PLACE WHERE YOU POSSIBLY SUFFERED THE TRAUMA THAT STILL EXERTS ITS CARNIVORE PERMANENT ENERGY. THAT IS, AND WHICH PREVENTS THE NORMAL USE OF YOUR ASP.



BY THIS MEANS WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO INDUCE A DEEP HYPNOTIC TRANCE IN A VERY SHORT TIME!

IN THAT STATE I WILL GIVE YOU A POST HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU TO GO DEEPER INTO A TRANCE NEXT TIME! AND THEN I'LL AWAKEN YOU! WE'LL REPEAT THIS EACH SESSION TO INCREASE THE EFFECT!



ALL OF THIS IS OVER-SIMPLIFICATION, OF COURSE! THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND IS PRETTY UNPREDICTABLE AND DOES NOT GIVE UP ITS SECRETS WITHOUT PUTTING UP A FIGHT! THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO RESORT TO TRICK PROGRAMS IN ORDER TO DISCOVER ITS DEFENSES! WHEN SOME LIFE SITUATION SHOCKS US SO BADLY THAT WE CAN'T FACE UP TO IT, WE TRY TO ESCAPE ITS PAINFUL EFFECTS BY PUSHING IT INTO THE UNCONSCIOUS! BUT IT'S STILL THERE, EXERTING DESTRUCTIVE FORCES, UNTIL WE CONFRONT IT OUT AND BY CONFRONTING IT DESTROY ITS POWER OVER US!



WE WILL TRY TO GET AT IT BY THE BACK DOOR, SO TO SPEAK, AND HOPEFULLY LAY THE GHOST TO REST! ENOUGH EXPLANATION FOR NOW!

I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST, SO THAT ANY APPREHENSION YOU MAY HAVE CAN BE OVERLESEN! YOU CAN BE SURE THAT YOU WILL REGAIN THE USE OF THAT ASP! NOW, JUST RELAX AND FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS!

RIGHT!



I'LL JUST TILT THE BLINDS TO BATHING THE ROOM A BIT. MEANWHILE, I WANT YOU TO GET COMFORTABLY RELAX YOUR MUSCLES FROM YOUR TOES TO THE TOP OF YOUR HEAD. OK? REAL COSTLY, MY TAP RECORDERS WILL PROVIDE A TRANSCRIPT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.



NOW, LOOK AT THE OVERHEAD LIGHT AND KEEP LOOKING AT IT! NO! DON'T RAISE YOUR HEAD! JUST YOUR EYES!



KEEP STARRING AT THE LIGHT! AND AS YOU DO SO, YOUR EYELIDS ARE GROWING HEAVY... VERY HEAVY! YOU ARE TIRED... GETTING SLEEPY... VERY TIRED... VERY HEAVY AND TIRED! THEY ARE CLOSING! YOU ARE DOING TO SLEEP! GOING DEEP ASLEEP! DEEPER! DEEPER! ASLEEP...!

TO BE CONTINUED!

THE WORLD WAS
DRIVEN NATURE HAD
TURNED AGAINST
THE PLANET. TO
RAVAGE THE LAND
WITH DISEASE,
FAMINE AND SLOW,
PAINFUL DEATH. THE
EARTH TREMBLED IN
JAGGED, SPITTING
ITSELF ASSUNDER
WITH DEVASTATING
FRAMING BARRAGE

SWALLOWED ENTIRE
VILLAGES, STately
CASTLES AND BAY-
TLEFIELDS DRENCHED
WITH HUMAN AND
GOBLIN BLOOD!

THE SECOND

THE SECOND PRE-
PRESSED PLAGUE OF
THE ENDTIME WAS
BEGINNING! THE
FIRST, THE GOBLIN
SWARMS WHICH
SWOOPED ACROSS
THE LAND, HAD LEFT
FEW HUMAN
SURVIVORS! THE
SECOND SCOURGE
THE FURY OF NATURE
ITSELF, WOULD
SURELY EXTINGUISH
ALL HUMAN LIFE!

VOLTAR

NO MAN COULD
STAND BEFORE
THE FIERCE WINDS,
THE DRIVING RAIL
STORMS OR THE
SEAS WHICH
RELENTLESSLY
HAMMERED AT THE
LAND. NO MAN
BUT, PERHAPS A
MERCIFUL GOD
WOULD SEE FIT TO
CHAMPION A
DOWN-TRODDEN
HUMANITY. TO
DEFT NATURE! BUT
WAS THERE SUCH
A BENEVOLENT
SAVIOUR TO
BE FOUND?

IF THIS BE THE
GLORIOUS MESSIAH
TO WHOM THE PUNY HUMANS
LOOK FOR SALVATION, WHY
THEN DOES HE NOT
SAVE HIMSELF?

ALFREDO R. ALCALA



ANTIOCHUS' EMOTIONAL FAREWELL WAS AS DIFFICULT FOR HIM AS WAS THE JOURNEY FOR HIS FAMILY. FOR WEEKS, WE TRAVERSED THE RUGGED MOUNTAIN TERRAIN OF THE FROZEN HIGHLANDS. NONE, SAVE I, KNEW THAT OUR DESTINATION WAS THE FORBIDDEN CLIFFS OF A PRESUMEDLY MYTHICAL REALM.



LONG HAD I HEARD LEGENDS SINGING THE FRAMES OF A PEACE-LOVING, KNOWLEDGE-WORSHIPPING PEOPLE WHO CALLED THEMSELVES ESSENES. I FOLLOWED THOSE LEGENDS TO THE EDGE OF A TANGLED, IMPENETRABLE FOREST OF LIVING TREES.



THOUGH MY WARRIORS PROTESTED THAT THE UNHOLY WOODS WERE IMPASSABLE, I, ALONE, KNEW OF THE WONDERS WHICH LAY UPON THE OTHER SIDE.



I EXPLAINED TO GUYEN SHEEMA AND HER PRINCES, JUDAH AND THE YOUNGER SARAH, THAT THE ESSENES WERE GAVE-OWNERS WHO NEVER KNEW THE SHADY. THEY AID FROM THE SAVAGERY OF OUR WORLD, CRISP IN THE BOWELS OF THE MOUNTAINS WHICH SEPARATED ANTIOCHUS' KINGDOM FROM THE DARKENED, FETTERED HEAVEN-REALM.



THE PRINCES TREMBLED AT THE PROSPECT OF SPENDING THEIR LIVES AS REFUGEES, HIDING FROM WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE THEIR FATHER'S GROUNDLESS FEARS. YET, THEY WERE BRAVE YOUTHS, NEVER VOICING THEIR TREPIDATION AS WE WALKED A PATH THROUGH THE SHAKING WOODS TOWARD THE GAYEN ENTRANCE OF THE HIDDEN ESSENE DOMAIN.



ONCE WITHIN THE HOLLOW MOUNTAIN, THOUGH THE WAY WAS CLEAR, OUR FEARS OF THE UNKNOWN PLAGUES EVERY SHADOW IT SEEMED UNNATURAL FOR A RACE TO DWELL WITHIN THAT CLOYING DARKNESS! YET, I KNEW THAT IT WAS PERHAPS THE ONLY PLACE UPON OUR ACCURSED EARTH WHERE THE SEVEN PLAGUES COULD NOT REACH!



THE CAVERN PATHS LED DIRECTLY TO THE ESSENE CITY! IT WAS A CITY OF WARMTH AND LIGHT NESTLED SECURELY IN THE BLACKNESS, PEOPLED BY GENTLE SOULS WHO WELCOMED OUR PARTY WITH FRIENDSHIP AND COMRADERY BETWEEN STRANGERS!



WHEN IT WAS EXPLAINED THAT KING ANTIOCHUS WISHED FOR HIS WIFE AND SONS TO DWELL AMONG THE ESSENES... TO LEARN THEIR WAYS SECURE IN THE COMFORT OF THEIR HIDDEN DOMAIN, THEY WERE ACCEPTED WITHOUT QUESTION! SO TRUSTING AND WITHOUT SUSPICION WERE THE CLEMENT PEOPLE OF THE CAVERN WORLD!



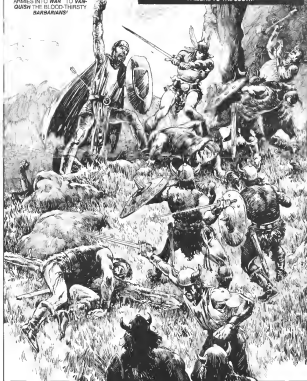
WE LEFT THEM THEN, MY PARTY OF WARRIORS AND I, TO RETURN TO OUR KING WITH THE NEWS THAT HIS QUEEN AND SONS WOULD KNOW SAFETY, NO MATTER THE PLAGUES WHICH BEFELL OUR FAIR LAND OF ALPSUM!



FOR YEARS, THE PLAGUES
FAILED TO MANIFEST
THEMSELVES UPON OUR
LAND. IN THEIR STEAD,
RAIDERS FROM THE FROST
MOUNTAINLANDS TO THE
NORTH, WED REPEATEDLY TO
MAKE ANTIOCHUS' KINGDOM
THEIR OWN. AND REPEATEDLY
THE VALIANT KING LED HIS
ARMIES INTO WAR TO VAN-
QUISH THE BLOOD-THIRSTY
BARBARIANS!

IT WAS DURING THE HIGHLAND WARS THAT YOU, VOLTAR,
GREW FROM A STRUPLING INTO ONE OF ANTIOCHUS'
GREATEST WARRIORS!

LEGENDS STILL SING OF THE GLORIOUS BATTLE OF THE
VALLEY OF BLOOD, IN WHICH YOU AND ANTIOCHUS
FIGHTING SIDE-BY-SIDE, WELD AN ARMY OF HIGHLAND
RAIDERS, PREVENTING THEM FROM MARCHING UPON UN-
PROTECTED ELYSIUM, WHILE HER ARMIES DESTROYED
RAIDERS TO THE SOUTH!



THE GENTLE ESSENS KNEW NOTHING OF THE BLOODY WAR WHICH RAGED WITHIN ELYSIUM. THEIR WORLD, THEIR LIFE WAS ACHIEVED. THEIR QUEST FOR INNER TRUTHS UNINTERRUPTED. ANTIOCHUS' PRINCIPLES SHAPED THEIR LESSONS. AND AS THE BROTHERS GLEW, SO, TOO, DID THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF ANCIENT AND FORGOTTEN MYSTERIES.



JASAM, THEIR WISDOM TUTOR, INSTRUCTED THE YOUTHS IN THE NATURAL SCIENCES OF THE EARTH AROUND THEM.



HE TAUGHT THEM OF ART AND BEAUTY AND THE TENDER MUSIC OF THE SOUL, BUT MORE THAN ALL ELSE, RAMAH INSTRUCTED ANTIOCHUS' HEIRS OF THE INNER SERENITY TO BE FOUND WITHIN ONE'S SELF.

JASAM, THE ELDER OF THE TWO BOYS, PROVED SKILLED IN ANOTHER OF THE FORGOTTEN ESSENE ARTS. THE HUMBLE ART OF HEALING! THE BOY HAD MENTALLY TO LAY HANDS UPON ANY MAN, AND STRENGTH, HEALTH WOULD SURGE THROUGH EVERY FIBER OF THAT MAN'S BEING.



YOUNG PARAVEL, HOWEVER, WAS MORE INTRIGUED BY THE BLACK ARTS, THOSE FORBIDDEN MAGICKS FROM WHICH THE NOBLE ESSENS SHARPERED THE WORLD.



BUT ONE DAY THE INQUISITIVE LAD STOLE INTO THAT CAVERN WHICH HOUSED THE SCROLLS OF FORGOTTEN KNOWLEDGE. HE TAMPERED WITH FORCES FAR TOO DANGEROUS FOR HUMAN EYES.

HE WAS DISCOVERED STANDING IN A POOL OF RED ENERGY.



HE HAD GAINED THE GREATEST SACRIFICE OF ALL, TO CREATE LIFE WITH THE POWERS OF THE BLACK ARTS, YET THE BOY HAD FAILED!

HIS ESSENE TEACHERS WERE OUTRAGED!



ANDRELY, JAMMIN, THE EBBING ELDER, CAST YOUNG TARAVAI FROM THE COMMUNITY! LIFE WAS TOO PERILOUS, THE OLD MAN CLAIMED, FAR TOO SACRED TO BE TREATED AS A MERE PLAYTHING! ALL LIFE, NO MATTER HOW LOWLY, POSSESSED AN ETERNAL SOUL! YET, PIONEER TARAVAI ARROGANTLY PRESUMED GENTLE AFFILIATES IN CREATING SOUL-LESS LIFE WITH POWERS FAR TOO EVIL FOR HIM TO EVER UNDERSTAND!



HIS MOTHER AND BROTHER WATCHED, SILENT AND ASHAMED, AS TARAVAI WAS EXPURGED TO THE DARKNESS!



REJECTED, HUMILIATED BY THOSE CLOSEST TO HIM, THE YOUTH WANDERED THE ENDLESS, BLACK CAVERN PATHS, SEETHING WITH RAGE!

SO TAWNT, SO CONTAMINATED HAD HIS SOUL BECOME BY MERE EXPOSURE TO THE BLACK POWERS, THAT EVERY CLING OF HIS BEING CRIED OUT FOR VENGEANCE!



HE REALIZED HIS VENGEANCE THE VERY NIGHT OF HIS EXPULSION! STEALING BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY!

HE BUTTERFERED HIS GENTLE TUTOR AS THE OLD MAN SLEPT! IT WAS A SAD SUMMERFUL TIME FOR THE EBBING! IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THEIR BLOOD HAD BEEN SPILLED IN ANGER!



TARAVAI FLED THEN, BACK TO THE CAVERNOUS DARKNESS INTO WHICH HE HAD BEEN CAST.



BUT NOT BEFORE COLLECTING THE FORGOTTEN SCROLLS, WHICH POSSESSED THE DARK KNOWLEDGE HER TAWNTED SOUL SO CRAVED!

WAS CONTINUED TO RIWAKE
ELYSIUM, AS YOU, VOLTAR, BECAME
ANTIOCHUS' GREATEST GENERAL!
PEACEFUL YEARS PASSED FOR
THOSE WITHIN THE ESSENE
COMMUNITY! PRINCE JAMAM GREW
INTO A MAN... RESPECTED BY
THE GLOW-ESSENCES FOR HIS
KNOWLEDGE AND PEACE-
WAYS!

TAMMAL GREW, TOO! HE FOUND HIS WAY FROM THE
CAVERN INTO THE FORGOTTEN NETHER REALM WHERE
NO MAN HAD BEFORE SURVIVED!



AND WHEN HE WAS READY, THE VICIOUS PRINCE RETURNED TO
THOSE WHO HAD REJECTED HIM... BRINGING WITH HIM GODLESS
LEGIONS FROM THE BLOOD-REALM!

HE WORE THE COLORS OF A TRUE WARLORD OF EVIL, MASKING HIS FEATURES WITH A BLACK IRON MASK! HIS
WARRIORS WERE THE GOSLIN HORDES, SPAWNED WITHIN THE EVIL UNIVERSE OF THE NETHER-REALM! AND
THOUGH HE WAS A HATED MAN, NATURALLY LOATHSOME TO THEIR KIND, THE NETHER ASSASSINS OWNED
THE FALLEN PRINCE UNQUESTIONINGLY! FEAR IMPROVED IN THEIR OWN VICIOUS EYES!



THE EVIL WARLORD ORDERED THE ESSENE TEACHERS EXTERMINATED! HE CARED NOT THAT HIS FLESH-EATING
SUTHERNS SAWAGED THE DESICCATED CORPSES, LEAVING NOT A SHARD OF FLESH TO WASTE UPON THE FRAIL
BONES OF THE SLAIN KNOWLEDGE-SEEDERS! HIS MOTHER... HIS QUEEN, WAS OUTRAGED! NO MASK COULD HIDE
HER SON'S FEATURES FROM HER! SHE KNEW! MERELY LOOKING INTO HIS CREEPY EYES, THAT SHE HAD BIRTHED
THIS... HUMAN MONSTER! SHE WAS BOTH INCASED... AND ASHAMED!



DURING THE YEARS OF HIS SON'S EXILE, ANTIOCHUS VENTURED UPON FREQUENT JOURNAES THROUGH THE THORN FOREST TO THE HIDDEN ESSENE LAND. HE LOVED HIS SONS DEARLY, YET, GREATLY FEARED FOR THEIR SAFETY. HE WAS SADDENED WHEN HIS YOUNGEST, TRAIING, HAD BEEN CAST INTO THE DARKNESS. YET, HE GLORIED IN THE PRIDE OF HIS ELDEST SON'S LEAVING.



WHEN AFFAIRS OF STATE PREVENTED ANTIOCHUS' VISITS, I WOULD VENTURE FORTH IN HIS STEAD, RETURNING TO MY LIEGE WITH ASSURANCE OF HIS FAMILY'S WELL-BEING!

UPON MY FINAL VISIT, HOWEVER, I COULD NOT RETURN TO MY KING WITH SUCH ASSURANCE FOR AS MY BEARERS RODE INTO THE ESSENE ENCAMPMENT WE WERE CONFRONTED WITH THE MOST UNIMAGINABLE OF NIGHTMARES!



WE KNEW NOT OF THE GORE IN VALTAKES WHICH HAD NAVIGATED THE PEACE-LOVING CAVE-DWELLERS. WE SAW ONLY THE UNMISTAKABLE TRAIL OF AN ARMY



...WHICH HAD MARCHED THROUGH THE BLACKNESS, BACK TOWARDS THE HELLISH NETHER-REalm FROM WHENCE THEY CAME!

WE FOLLOWED, NOT KNOWING YET PERHAPS, THAT QUEEN SHEYRA AND PRINCE ADAM WERE YET ALIVE, PRISONERS OF THE DEMON-BEASTS! VENGEANCE FILLED OUR HEARTS, AND WHETHER THEY BE STILL LIVING OR AMONG THE DEAD, WE WERE DETERMINED THAT BLOOD WOULD BE SPILT IN THE NAME OF OUR KING!



LITTLE WERE WE PAID - ALSO FOR THE LEGIONS OF NIGHTMARE-ASSASSINS WHO AWAITED US UPON OUR EMERGENCE INTO THE FORSIDDEN DEMON-PROVINCE!



THOSE OF US WHO WERE NOT SLAIN TO FILL THE GOBLIN-HEASTS BELLS, WERE IMPRISONED IN TARNAL'S VAST DUNGEON! MANY OTHERS HAVE SINCE JOINED US - BROUGHT HERE AFTER RAIDS UPON ELYSIUM!

ONLY THE GOBLINS SIP ON OUR NUMBER IN TIME - THERE WILL BE NO WARRIOR LEFT ALIVE!



EVEN NOW THEY CRAMMY JUDAH THE SAVIOR - BUT WHAT OF QUEEN SHEYLA SADUCKEESE?

WE COULD NOT ALLOW THE QUEEN TO BE BUTCHERED VOLTA! WE FOUND HER HERE - IN THE WARLORD'S DUNGEON! WE HAVE MOVED HER FROM THE FLESH-EATERS SWORN!



SHE IS AT PEACE, MY GENERAL! NEVER TO BE DISTURBED AGAIN!



TO BE CONTINUED!

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Figure 1. The effect of the number of trials on the number of correct responses. The number of correct responses was significantly higher for the 10-trial condition than for the 5-trial condition. Error bars represent the standard error of the mean.




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